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DAILY REPORT

# Latest from the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (SMM), based on information received as of 19:30, 9 November 2018

This report is for the media and the general public.

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In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded **more ceasefire violations**<sup>[1]</sup>, including 260 explosions, compared with the [previous reporting period](#) (about 115 explosions).<sup>[2]</sup>

In the morning on 9 November, while in Debaltseve (non-government-controlled, 58km north-east of Donetsk), the SMM heard 50 undetermined explosions over a period of 30 minutes, all at an assessed range of 5-8km north-west.

During the day on 9 November, positioned about 1km north-west of the railway station in Yasynuvata (non-government-controlled, 16km north-east of Donetsk), the SMM heard about 90 undetermined explosions (27 assessed as outgoing rounds of cannon (30mm) fire, two assessed as outgoing rounds of mortar (undetermined type) fire, three assessed as impacts of undetermined weapons, about 50

assessed as undetermined explosions of cannon (30mm) fire and the remainder assessed as undetermined rounds of undetermined weapons) and 350 bursts and shots of small-arms fire, all at an assessed range of 1-6km at directions ranging from south-west to north.

During the day on 9 November, positioned 2km south-west of the entry-exit checkpoint near Pyschchevyk (government-controlled, 25km north-east of Mariupol), the SMM heard an explosion assessed as the impact of a mortar round at an assessed range of 2.5-3km east-south-east, followed by about 20 bursts and shots of small-arms fire at an assessed range of 3-4km south-south-east and south-east.

During the day on 9 November, positioned 2km south-east of Lebedynske (government-controlled, 16km north-east of Mariupol), the SMM heard, in sequence, nine explosions assessed as impacts of undetermined weapon(s) rounds and about twenty bursts of heavy-machine-gun fire, all at an assessed range of 3-4km at directions ranging from north to east; an undetermined explosion at an undetermined distance north-north-east; five explosions (one assessed as outgoing and its resultant impact and four undetermined) 3-5km east and north-east; three explosions assessed as outgoing rounds and their resultant impacts at undetermined distances north-east and east-north-east; and over 100 bursts of small-arms fire 3-4km north-east.

In Luhansk region, the SMM recorded **fewer ceasefire violations**, including four explosions, compared with the [previous reporting period](#) (about 90 explosions).

During the day on 9 November, positioned on the north-eastern edge of Sentianivka (formerly Frunze, non-government-controlled, 44km west of Luhansk), the SMM heard two bursts of 30mm cannon fire and six shots of heavy-machine-gun fire, all at an assessed range of 6-8km north-west.

**An SMM long-range unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) experienced severe jamming.** On the evening of 8 November, an SMM long-range UAV temporarily lost its GPS signal, assessed as due to jamming, near Korsun (non-government-controlled, 31km north-east of Donetsk).<sup>[3]</sup> The incident was assessed as particularly severe, as it caused most of the control and communication links (including backup systems) between the Ground Control Station and the UAV to fail. Despite the severity of the jamming attack, the operating team regained control over the aircraft after it left the jamming area in emergency mode. In 2016, an SMM long-range UAV was lost while flying over Korsun (see [SMM Spot Report of 3 June 2016](#)).

The SMM followed up on **reports of shelling near Novoluhanske** (government-controlled, 53km north-east of Donetsk). In a parking lot of the Bakhmut Agrarian Union's pig farm near Novoluhanske, about 10m south of its northwest entrance, the SMM observed five fresh impact sites consisting of small craters and charred asphalt over an area of 100 square metres. Approximately 5-10m south of these impacts, the SMM observed about 30 to 50 fresh shrapnel marks on the north-facing wall of the farm building, 2-3m above the ground. About 150m west of these craters, the SMM saw a large oak tree missing some bark and smaller branches which had about 20 fresh scratches assessed as shrapnel scars approximately 5m above the ground on the south-facing side of its trunk. A member of the Ukrainian Armed Forces told the SMM that they had cleaned up the site after the shelling. The SMM assessed all the damage as having been caused by the explosion of 82mm mortar rounds fired from a southerly direction. A man (in his sixties) told the SMM he worked at the farm and had been present during the shelling which, he said, had occurred from 16:30 to 17:45 on 6 November.

The SMM continued to **monitor and to pursue full access to the disengagement areas** near Stanytsia Luhanska (government-controlled, 16km north-east of Luhansk), Zolote (government-

controlled, 60km west of Luhansk) and Petrivske<sup>[4]</sup> (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk), as foreseen in the [Framework Decision of the Trilateral Contact Group relating to disengagement of forces and hardware](#) of 21 September 2016. The SMM's access remained restricted, but the Mission was able to partially monitor them.\*

On 9 November, positioned on the south-western edge of Zolote-5/Mykhailivka (non-government-controlled, 58km west of Luhansk), the SMM heard two undetermined explosions at an assessed range of 2-3km north (assessed as outside the disengagement area).

The same day, positioned on the northern edge of Kalynove-Borshchuvate (non-government-controlled, 61km west of Luhansk), the SMM heard an undetermined explosion at an assessed range of 5-7km north-north-east (assessed as outside the Zolote disengagement area).

Also on 9 November, positioned about 2km north of Petrivske, the SMM heard eight bursts of small-arms fire followed by a minute of uncountable overlapping shots and bursts of small-arms fire, all at an assessed distance of 2-3km south (unable to assess whether inside or outside the disengagement area), and then four instances (in total 15 minutes) of uncountable overlapping shots and bursts of small-arms fire at an assessed distance of 2-3km north (assessed as outside the disengagement area).

The SMM continued to monitor the **withdrawal of weapons** in implementation of the Memorandum and the Package of Measures and its Addendum.

In violation of withdrawal lines in government-controlled areas, on 8 November, an SMM long-range UAV spotted an anti-tank guided missile system (9P148 *Konkurs*, 135mm) near Bila Hora (54km north of Donetsk) and an anti-tank gun (MT-12 *Rapira*, 100mm) and three probable anti-tank guns (MT-12) near Zhelanne (36km north-west of Donetsk).

Beyond the respective withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites in government-controlled areas, on 8 November, an SMM long-range UAV spotted two surface-to-air missile systems (9K37 *Buk*): one near Petropavlivka (49km west of Donetsk) and one in Novooleksandrivka (36km north-west of Donetsk).

The SMM observed **armoured combat vehicles (ACV), an anti-aircraft gun<sup>[5]</sup> and other indications of military-type presence in the security zone**. In government-controlled areas, on 8 November, an SMM long-range UAV spotted three armoured reconnaissance vehicles (BRDM-2), five infantry fighting vehicles (IFV) (BMP variants), two ACVs (type undetermined) and a modified military truck with an anti-aircraft gun (ZU-23-2, 23mm) near Bila Hora; three IFVs (BMP-2) near Maiorsk (45km north-east of Donetsk); an ACV near Troitske (30km north of Donetsk); and two IFVs (BMP-1) near Marinka (23km south-west of Donetsk). On 9 November, the SMM saw an armoured personnel carrier (APC) (BTR-80) east of Zolote-2/Karbonit (62km west of Luhansk), two IFVs (BMP-1) near Zolote (60km west of Luhansk), an APC (BTR variant) in Kriakivka (38km north-west of Luhansk) and an APC (BTR variant) east of Mariupol.

In non-government-controlled areas, on 8 November, an SMM long-range UAV spotted seven IFVs (four BMP-1 and three probable BMP variants) and an APC (MT-LB) near Novoselivka (37km north-east of Donetsk). On 9 November, an SMM mid-range UAV spotted a 400m-long trench (not seen in imagery from 25 August 2018) about 2.5km south-west of Naberezhne (77km south of Donetsk) and a new 270m-long trench with six firing positions about 1.5km north-west of Naberezhne.

The SMM **facilitated and monitored adherence to the ceasefire to enable repair works**, on 9

November, to the Petrivske water pumping station near Artema (government-controlled, 26km north of Luhansk), a well in Krasnyi Lyman (non-government-controlled, 30km north-west of Luhansk), power lines Zolote-5/Mykhailivka, the phenol sludge reservoir near Zalizne (formerly Artemove, government-controlled, 42km north-east of Donetsk) and damaged houses in Marinka and Krasnohorivka (government-controlled, 21km west of Donetsk), as well as to **enable demining activities** near Nyzhnoteple (government-controlled, 26km north of Luhansk). The Mission continued to facilitate the operation of the Donetsk Filtration Station. In Luhansk region, the Mission facilitated and monitored a transfer of funds from non-government to government-controlled areas, reportedly in relation to a water payment. On 8 November, the SMM facilitated and monitored adherence to the ceasefire to enable repair works to power lines in the Vilnyi neighbourhood of Zolote-4/Rodina (government-controlled, 59km west of Luhansk)

The SMM visited three **border areas outside government control**. While at a border crossing point near Izvaryne (52km south-east of Luhansk) for about five minutes, the SMM saw a bus with Ukrainian licence plates and 15 pedestrians (eight men and seven women, aged 20 to 55) entering Ukraine. A member of the armed formations told the SMM to leave the area.\* While at a pedestrian border crossing point near Verkhnoharasymivka (57km south-east of Luhansk) for about 25 minutes, the SMM saw three women and a man (aged 40 to 65) entering Ukraine and two men and a woman (aged 45 to 65) exiting Ukraine. While at a border crossing point near Sievernyi (50km south-east of Luhansk) for about three minutes, the SMM saw a woman in her sixties exiting Ukraine and a man in his sixties entering Ukraine. A member of the armed formations told the SMM to leave the area.\*

**In Odessa, the SMM continued to follow up on media reports of vandalism to monuments (see [SMM Daily Report 6 November 2018](#)). On 8 November, on Polskyi Descent, the SMM saw splashes of fresh red paint and the phrase “Death to the red slaughterers” in Ukrainian spray-painted onto a monument commemorating the 1905 mutiny on the battleship *Potemkin*. On 9 November, at 1 Mytna Square, the SMM observed that the words “Death to the Executioners” had been spray-painted in Ukrainian onto a statue to Hryhoryi Vakulenchuk, one of the sailors involved in the mutiny, and traces of red paint on a plaque honouring communists executed or sentenced to hard labour at 44 Preobrazhenska Street.**

The SMM continued monitoring in Kherson, Lviv, Ivano-Frankivsk, Kharkiv, Dnipro, Chernivtsi and Kyiv.

***\*Restrictions of SMM’s freedom of movement or other impediments to fulfilment of its mandate***

*The SMM’s monitoring and freedom of movement are restricted by security hazards and threats, including risks posed by mines, unexploded ordnance (UXO) and other impediments – which vary from day to day. The SMM’s mandate provides for safe and secure access throughout Ukraine. All signatories of the Package of Measures have agreed on the need for this safe and secure access, that restriction of the SMM’s freedom of movement constitutes a violation, and on the need for rapid response to these violations. They have also agreed that the Joint Centre on Control and Coordination (JCCC) should contribute to such response and co-ordinate mine clearance. Nonetheless, the armed formations in parts of Donetsk and Luhansk regions frequently deny the SMM access to areas adjacent to Ukraine’s border outside control of the Government (for example, see below). The SMM’s operations in Donetsk and Luhansk regions remain restricted following [the fatal incident of 23 April 2017 near Pryshyb](#); these restrictions continued to limit the Mission’s observations.*

Denials of access:

- At a border crossing point near Sievernyi, a member of the armed formations [again](#) told the SMM

to leave the area.

- At a border crossing point near Izvaryne, a member of the armed formations [again](#) told the SMM to leave the area.

*Regular restrictions related to disengagement areas and mines/UXO:*

- The SMM was prevented from accessing parts of the Stanytsia Luhanska disengagement area, with the exception of the main road, due to the possible presence of mines and UXO. A Ukrainian Armed Forces officer of the JCCC informed the SMM that no demining had taken place during the previous 24 hours. The SMM did not consider it safe to proceed and informed the JCCC.<sup>[6]</sup>
- The SMM was prevented from accessing secondary roads in the Zolote disengagement area due to the possible presence of mines and UXO. A Ukrainian Armed Forces officer of the JCCC informed the SMM that no demining had taken place during the previous 24 hours. The SMM did not consider it safe to proceed and informed the JCCC.<sup>6</sup>
- The SMM was prevented from accessing secondary roads south of the Zolote disengagement area due to the possible presence of mines and UXO. A member of the armed formations informed the SMM that no demining had taken place during the previous 24 hours. The SMM did not consider it safe to proceed.
- The SMM did not travel across the bridge in Shchastia due to the presence of mines. A Ukrainian Armed Forces officer of the JCCC said there were mines on the road south of the bridge. The SMM informed the JCCC.<sup>6</sup>

Other impediments:

- On the evening of 8 November, an SMM long-range UAV temporarily lost its GPS signal, assessed as due to jamming, on two occasions: near Novoselivka and near Korsun.<sup>[7]</sup>
- On 9 November, an SMM mini-UAV temporarily lost its GPS signal [again](#), assessed as due to jamming, while flying over Chermalyk (government-controlled, 31km north-east of Mariupol).
- In Kadiivka (formerly Stakhanov, non-government-controlled, 50km west of Luhansk), a morgue employee refused to provide the SMM information regarding a civilian casualty (see [SMM Daily Report of 9 November 2018](#)), telling it to contact the armed formations.

<sup>[1]</sup> For a complete breakdown of ceasefire violations, please see [the annexed table](#).

\* Please see the section at the end of this report entitled “*Restrictions of the SMM’s freedom of movement or other impediments to fulfilment of its mandate*”.

<sup>[2]</sup> During the reporting period, the SMM camera in Krasnohorivka was not operational.

<sup>[3]</sup> The interference could have originated from anywhere within a radius of several kilometres of the UAV’s position.

<sup>[4]</sup> Due to the presence of mines, including on a road between Bohdanivka and Petrivske, the SMM’s access to its camera in Petrivske remains limited, and thus the SMM has not been able to access observations from the camera since 22 June 2018.

<sup>[5]</sup> This hardware mentioned in this section is not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

[6] The SMM informed Ukrainian Armed Forces officers of the JCCC. Russian Federation Armed Forces officers of the JCCC withdrew from the JCCC as of 18 December 2017.

[7] The interference could have originated from anywhere within a radius of several kilometres of the UAV's position.

For PDF attachments or links to sources of further information, please visit:

<http://www.osce.org/node/402689>

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